

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W
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R 141633Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1885

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

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1. NEWS REACHED RABAT EVENING MAY 13 OF DEATH OF ISTIQLAL PARTY LEADER ALLAL EL FASSI IN BUCHAREST EARLIER SAME DAY. EL FASSI, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, HAD HAD HEART SEIZURE DURING COURSE OF MEETING WITH ROMANIAN HEAD OF STATE AND SUCCUMBED SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE WAS 64.

2. COMMENT: EL FASSI'S DEATH COMES AT TIME WHEN QUOTE GRAND OLD PARTY UNQUOTE OF MOROCCO'S INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN HAS FALLEN ON EVIL DAYS. NO AMOUNT OF JOURNALISTIC RHETORIC ABOUT STUDENT AND UNION ACTIVITY COULD MAKE UP FOR ATROPHYING POLITICAL MUSCLES WHICH PROLONGED PERIOD WITHOUT REAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN HAS PRODUCED. FURTHER, PARTY HAS BEEN DIVIDED ON WHAT POLICY TO PURSUE TOWARDS REGIME, WITH ONE FACTION CALLING FOR ACCOMMODATION THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT AND MORE MILITANT ELEMENTS INSISTING ON CONCESSIONS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ELECTIONS BEFORE COMING TO TERMS.

3. EL FASSI HIMSELF HAD BEEN RUMORED TO FAVOR PARTICIPATION ON EASY TERMS, PERHAPS SO THAT HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER COULD HAVE BEEN CLIMAXED BY MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT. HIS PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANTS IN PARTY WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN
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DISSUADING HIM FROM REACHING ACCOMMODATION.

4. REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW PARTY POLICY WILL DEVELOP IN FUTURE.
M'HAMMED BOUCETTA AND M'HAMMED DOUIRI ARE TWO MEN MOST
LIKELY INHERITY MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE
THAT THEY WOULD SHARE LEADERSHIP DUTIES IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
BOTH ARE SAID TO BE RELATIVELY INTRANSIGENT ON QUESTION OF
ACCOMMODATION WITH REGIME. THIS ISSUE WILL BE OF LESS
CONCERN TO FAITHFUL NOW THAT NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED
AND TPARTY MAY BE EXPECTED DEVOTE MOST OF ITS ENERGIES TO
PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS WHICH SOME ANTICIPATE WILL TAKE PLACE
AT END OF YEAR.
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